REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22-24 remain in this application and are hereby each amended.

Claims 1-21 and 25-28 were previously canceled, without prejudice, in efforts to obtain issuance of a patent with claims earlier allowed by the examiner but since rejected on new art in the present Office Action.

Claims 29-35 are newly added.

The examiner previously acknowledged that claims 22-24 (prior to the amendments here) were directed to allowable subject matter; however, the examiner since rejected those claims in the present Office Action. This Amendment responds to the new grounds of rejection presented in the present Office Action.

1.   Claim 23 was rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim is here amended to overcome the rejection, on the basis stated by the examiner for the rejection. No new matter is added by the amendment.

2.   Claim 22 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hakim, in view of Frankel. Hakim discloses an "800" number arrangement, by which first and second gateways are employed to utilize the Internet in making calls. Hakim does not disclose any centralized authentication feature, because authentication and other operations to connect the gateways (and thus facilitate calls) are performed by the gateways or in conjunction with the gateways (e.g., the Mapping database function). The examiner cites Frankel for the proposition that the "directing [i.e., of the call over the Internet between the gateways] is based... on first destination identifier

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supplied with the encoded voice-band traffic…". Frankel, like Hakim, does not disclose any

centralized authentication feature.

In view of Applicant's amendments, which more distinctly and specifically point out

distinguishing features, the cited references alone or in combination do not teach or suggest

Applicant's claimed inventions. Applicant's amendments describe that the call received at a first

gateway is directed to "centralized authentication service connected to the gateway by the packet-

switched network". Thus, the gateway communicates with the authentication service over a

packet-switched network, in initiating a connection for a call over the packet-switched network.

If the authentication is successful, the authentication service plays no further part in the call, and

communications between the gateway and the authentication service are "dissociated". On this

dissociation, the first gateway continues communications over the packet-switched network to

the second gateway (i.e., the authentication service is not an intermediary of the network

communications of the call). Thus, upon completion of authentication, the respective gateways

handle the call over the packet-switched network.

This centralized feature of the authentication service allows, for example, for the

advantages described in the application, such as at p. 1, line 24 through p. 2, line 8; and p. 4 lines

14-21). The concept of a centralized feature platform (that includes an authentication service or

other operations) is not taught or suggested by the cited references. Rather, the cited references

describe the configurations and operations requiring gateways that each support features and that

are therefore more complex, etc. (Please see, for example, the discussion in Hakim at col. 6,

lines 30, et seq. for the discussion of how each gateway must each provide the features to enable

call operations outside the gateways and Internet connection between them, such as Mapping

features to determine which ITS's to connect over the Internet and so forth,).

Applicant's amended claim expressly points out the centralized platform for

authentication and other features, and that the connection to the platform is dissociated once the

platform features are performed/completed. This eliminates the need to include complex features

at each gateway and the inherent problems with synchronization, maintenance, etc. at each and

every applicable gateway. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

3.   Claims 23-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Hakim, in view of

Frankel, and further in view of Truchon. The foregoing discussion in 2, above, describes how

the base references of Hakim and Frankel are distinguished from the amended claims. Truchon

was cited for the proposition that the "directing [i.e., of the call over the Internet between the

gateways] is based… on first destination identifier supplied with the encoded voice-band traffic

originating from the voice terminal."

Applicant's amendments more specifically and distinctly point out that any voice terminal

initiating a call merely communicates with a first gateway (as in the manner of either PSTN or

VoIP call), then the first gateway communicates over the packet-switched network to the

centralized platform feature that provides the authentication service. The "directing" in

Applicant's amended claims more clearly is identified as occurring, initially, between the

authentication service and the gateway, and only thereafter between the first and second gateways

without the authentication service intermediating. The communications between first and second

gateways in the actual voice call (i.e., after authentication, in the case of the focus of the claims

in the application) are then direct, through network routes not including the centralized platform/authentication service.

The cited references and combination do not teach or suggest the aspects of Applicant's amended claims.

In response to the prior Office Action, Applicant chose to cancel, without prejudice, certain claims that were directed more generally to the centralized feature platform and other such features (beyond authentication services, etc.) that are possible because of the centralized feature platform arrangement of Applicant. Applicant's action in canceling certain claims in prior prosecution was taken in order to obtain prompt issuance of a patent with previously allowed claims. As stated at the time of the cancellations, Applicant's sole intent and purpose was to obtain a first patent for the allowed claims, and then continue prosecution of all other claims. Applicant merely was attempting to obtain prompt issuance of what had already been allowed, without prejudice to continuing prosecution of all other features. Because the present Office Action has now made newly stated rejections of those claims previously believed allowed, Applicant again recapitulates that the prior cancellations were not made based on art or other substantive grounds; therefore, there should not be any significance to the fact of the cancellations and, in fact, Applicant continues to pursue all previously cancelled claims (even though Applicant herein has chosen to address only the present Office Action and has not, in this application for purposes of responding here, restated those prior claims.

In every event, Applicant intends to continue prosecution of the canceled claims in a continuation application upon receipt of an official Notice of Allowance as to the amended claims and new claims in the application, and hereby respectfully submitted to be allowable in view of this amendment.

The newly added claims 29-35, herein, depend on the amended claims, and further point out nuances from the cited art.
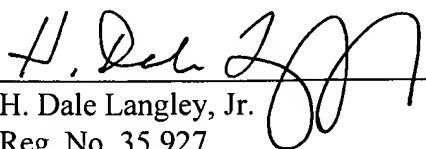
Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections, allowance of all pending claims, and issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance in this case.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the undersigned attorney for Applicant respectfully requests a call to discuss any issues. The Office is authorized to charge any excess fees or to credit any overage to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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